



Newsletter of the
Northeast
Georgia
Section of the
American
Chemical Society



ACS
Chemistry for Life®

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September 2017

[Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, September 26, 2017](#)

Dr. Joe Grubbs

**DaniMer Scientific: Producing Renewable and Sustainable
Bioplastics**

Meeting Place:

220 Riverbend Road in the Riverbend Research South Auditorium, next to the Georgia Genomics facility and the Center for Applied Isotopes

Parking Available in lot E13 at Riverbend Research North and South
(Parking Permits Not Needed After 6:00 pm)

Pizza & Soft Drinks Social starts at 6:00 PM in Auditorium Lobby
(\$15 for faculty/established members and \$5 for graduate/undergraduate students)

TALK ABSTRACT

Biopolymers – sometimes called bioplastics – are made from renewable biomass sources. These sources can include vegetable oil, various plant starches, and by-products from trees. Some bioplastics, including those made by DaniMer Scientific, are also biodegradable.

Based on DaniMer Scientific's proprietary PHA (polyhydroxyalkanoate) and PLA (polylactic acid) technologies, DaniMer Scientific creates customized biopolymer formulations, then manufactures the resins to meet the needs of specific products. We can create biopolymer blends based on unique requirements for tensile strength, shelf life, degradability timelines, and other unique features.

This combination of flexibility, sustainability and biodegradability makes our bioplastics a viable replacement feedstock for many of the everyday uses of petroleum-derived disposable plastics, such as packaging, carryout bags, food service items, agricultural films, toys, and most personal and home products.

SPEAKER'S BIOGRAPHY

Joe Grubbs, is a Senior Polymer Scientist and UGA liaison at DaniMer Scientific and overseer of R&D at the DaniMer UGA labs located at 110 Riverbend Road. He joined DaniMer in 2008 where he has contributed and continues to contribute to major research successes in the development of adhesives, aqueous coatings, biodegradable polyesters and waxes, as well as energy stimulation polymers. He earned an A.A. in Biological Sciences at Bainbridge College, a B.S. in Biology at Georgia Southwestern State University and a Ph.D. in Polymer Chemistry at the University of Georgia under the direction of Dr. Jason Locklin. At UGA, his thesis involved two major focus areas: biopolymer coatings using several surface polymerization methodologies and proprietary research on biodegradable adhesives, waxes, and tackifiers. He is also listed on several pending patents due to his significant contributions to the company's biodegradable adhesive and wax products. Currently, Grubbs is serving as the liaison between UGA and DaniMer on collaborative efforts between the two. He serves on the Biochemical Engineering Advisory board and is an appointed Adjunct Assistant Professor in the College of Engineering at UGA.

CHAIR CORNER

Greetings and welcome to the fall season of NEGSACS events. Our fall calendar begins on Tuesday, September 26th, with a presentation by our Chair Elect, Dr. Joe Grubbs. Joe's work with biodegradable plastics is revolutionary. We can look forward to an informative and enjoyable evening. The meeting will be held at the Riverbend auditorium and the meal will be catered. A nominal contribution of \$15 for faculty/established ACS member or \$5 for graduate/undergraduate student is requested.

Dr. Norb Pienta, Editor of the Journal of Chemical Education, will be our speaker Tuesday, October 17th. Norb will share with us an inside look at the journal and some fascinating tidbits.

Tuesday, November 14th, we will look forward to graduate student night. Some of our graduate students will present their research and describe for us some areas of current interest. Details to follow.

I encourage you all to find time in your schedules to join with our local professional community and enjoy the camaraderie.

Richard Morrison, NEGSACS Chair

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS

Nominations are now open for the following officers of the Section:

Chair-elect--2018; Chair--2019

Treasurer (serves two years)

Secretary (serves two years)

Interested parties may contact either Richard Morrison or Maurice Snook.

Future Meetings

Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2017-- Dr. Norb Pienta, Editor of the Journal of Chemical Education.

Tuesday, Nov. 14th-- graduate student night.

NORTHEAST GEORGIA LOCAL SECTION OFFICERS

SECTION WEBSITE: negeorgia.sites.acs.org

Executive Committee

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Chair-elect: Joe Grubbs, III, DaniMer Scientific, joegrubbs@danimer.com, 229-243-7075

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